

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on October 5, 2007, Applicants amended claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 11, and added new claims 15-46. Claims 1-3, 5-12, and 14-46 are presented for examination.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichinose in view of Yu. But, there is no suggestion to modify Ichinose with Yu to provide the photovoltaic cells and components covered by these claims. Yu discloses photodiodes for use in image sensors. (See, e.g., Yu col. 1, lines 6-13 and Abstract.) As known to those skilled in the art, the current that is transported through an electrode in Yu's system is significantly lower, in some cases on the order of more than a thousand times lower, than the current that is typically transported by electrodes in photovoltaic cells. Further, Yu applies a reverse bias to his electrodes. (See, e.g., id. col. 3, lines 63-65 and Abstract.) One skilled in the art would understand that, when selecting his electrode materials, Yu did not select his electrode materials based on whether the materials were selective with respect to transport of a given charge (positive or negative), as would typically be done when selecting an electrode designed to be used in a photovoltaic cell. As a result, one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to modify Ichinose by replacing one of his electrodes with one of Yu's electrodes. Further, Applicants do not concede that, even if Ichinose were modified based on Yu in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the result would be the subject matter covered by claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-12, and 14. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

The Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichinose, Yu, and Friend. As noted above, there is no suggestion to combine Ichinose and Yu. Friend does not cure this deficiency. Moreover, Applicants do not concede that, even if Ichinose were modified based on Yu and Friend in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the result would be the subject matter covered by claim 7. Applicants therefore request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of this claim.

Applicants added new claims 15-29, which require the leakage connectors to consist of silver, to be printed on the second electrode, and/or to be devoid of an adhesive. The Examiner

likens Ichinose's grid electrode 407 to the leakage connectors required by the claims. Applicants do not concede that this characterization of Ichinose is correct. But, even if such a characterization were correct, Ichinose does not disclose or suggest the leakage connectors required by claims 15-25. Ichinose discloses that his grid electrode 407 consists of a metal wire 201 and a conductive coating 205. (Ichinose, col. 24, lines 39-41 and Fig. 2A.) Conductive coating 205 is formed of layers 202 and 203. (Id., col. 9, lines 23-25 and Fig. 2A.) Each of layers 202 and 203 is formed of a heat curing conductive adhesive (id., col. 10, lines 37-39 and 43-44), and Ichinose's leakage connector is fixed onto a surface using heat, pressure or both. (Id., col. 25, lines 15-28.) Thus, Ichinose does not disclose the subject matter covered by claims 15-25. Nor is there any suggestion to modify Ichinose to provide such subject matter.

Applicants also added new claims 32-46, which require that the second electrodes are opaque. Again, Applicants do not concede that the Examiner is correct to liken Ichinose's grid electrode 407 to the leakage connectors required by the claims. But, even if such an interpretation of Ichinose were correct, Ichinose repeatedly discloses that grid electrode 407 is on the light incident side of his device. (Id., col. 24, lines 54-56 and col. 25, lines 15-16.) As a result, Ichinose does not disclose grid electrode 407 is disposed on an opaque electrode. Nor is there any suggestion to modify Ichinose to provide the subject matter covered by claims 32-46. Certainly Yu does not provide such a suggestion as Yu does not disclose an opaque electrode that is made of a predominantly organic material.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance, and request such action.

The excess claims fee in the amount of \$600 is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing attorney docket no. 21928-018US1.

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Respectfully submitted,

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